

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7 and 10 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, non-elected claims 8 and 9 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Also canceled are claims 2-6.

Independent claim 1 is amended, and claim 10 is added to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Table 2.

No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action does not acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy. The certified copy of the priority document was submitted in the corresponding PCT application.

The Office Action objects to claims 2-6, asserting that these claims are of improper dependent form. In particular, the Office Action asserts that claims 2-6 do not recite positive active steps that further define the process of claim 1. The Office Action also rejects claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, based on similar grounds. Claims 2-6 are canceled, rendering this objection and rejection moot.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,114,644 to Beall; and rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Beall in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,420,316 to Frost. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

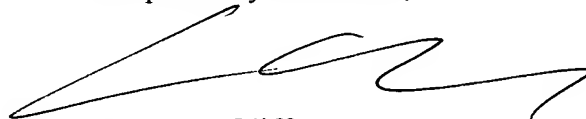
Claim 1 is amended to recite additional features, as outlined above. Beall does not disclose or render obvious the subject matter recited in claim 1, as amended. For example, Beall does not disclose three temperature rise rates with the second temperature rise rate being smaller than both the first and third temperature rise rates. Also, Frost does not cure the deficiencies of Beall. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, and claim 7 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and/or §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 is patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for the additional features it recites. For example, Beall and Frost do not disclose or render obvious the features "the first and third temperature rise rates are equal to or greater than 50°C/hour, and the second temperature rise rate is between 2 and 30°C/hour," as recited in claim 10.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 7 and 10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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